

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A two axis stage for microscopes comprising:
  - a first table on which a sample is placed and that can be moved in a first direction;
  - a second table that guides said first table in said first direction and that can be moved in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction;
  - a base that guides said second table in said second direction; and
  - a drive mechanism for independently driving said first table and second table, said two axis stage further comprising:
    - a third table disposed on said base, said third table being movable in said first direction using said drive mechanism for moving said first table; and
    - a connecting member disposed on said third table [[base]] and movable in said second direction, said connecting member being connected with said first table from beneath said second table.
2. (Original) A two axis stage for microscopes comprising:
  - a first table on which a sample is placed and that can be moved in a first direction by a first feed screw;
  - a second table that guides said first table in said first direction and that can be moved in a second direction perpendicular to said first direction by a second feed screw; and
  - a base that guides said second table in said second direction, said two axis stage further comprising:
    - a third table disposed on said base that can be moved in said first direction by said first feed screw, wherein said second feed screw is located towards the edge of said base in said first direction with respect to the center of said base, wherein said first feed screw is located so as not to intersect said second feed screw when

projected on a plane of stage movement, and wherein said third table is connected with said first table via a connecting member from beneath said second table, said connecting member being movable in said second direction.

3. (Original) The two axis stage for microscopes according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said connecting member is passed through a perforation provided in said second table and extending in said first direction.

4. (Currently Amended) The two axis stage for microscopes according to [[any one of]] claims 1 or 2 [[, 1, 2 and 3]], wherein the stage structure is housed in a chamber, in which a specific atmosphere or vacuum is maintained, and wherein a motor as a drive means is fixed outside said chamber.

5. (Currently Amended) A charge particle beam apparatus comprising the two axis stage for microscopes according to [[any one of]] claims 1 or 2 [[1, 2 and 3]].

6. (New) The two axis stage for microscopes according to claim 3, wherein the stage structure is housed in a chamber, in which a specific atmosphere or vacuum is maintained, and wherein a motor as a drive means is fixed outside said chamber.

7. (New) A charge particle beam apparatus comprising the two axis stage for microscopes according to claim 3.